

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion.

Claims 1-7, 15, 16, and 19 are pending in the application. Independent Claims 1, 15, and 19 are amended, and Claims 8-14, 17, and 18 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.¹

In the Office Action Figures 1-3, 5, and 7 are objected to because the drawings are not designated as "Prior Art"; the drawings are objected to as including reference characters not mentioned in the description; the abstract is objected to; Claims 1-7, 15, 16, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claims 1, 15, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by the Admitted Prior Art; and Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Admitted Prior Art in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,203,082 to Bendat et al. (Bendat).

Initially, Applicants express thanks for the Examiner's indication that Claims 3-7 and 16 recite allowable subject matter, such that the objected to claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 3-7 and 16 are asserted to be allowable as depending from allowable independent claims, for the reasons discussed below, and therefore the objected to claims are not rewritten at this time.

As stated above Figures 1-3, 5, and 7 are objected to because the drawings are not designated as "Prior Art." In response, as shown in the attached replacement pages, these figures have been so designated.

As stated above the drawings are objected to as including the reference character 81c. In response, contrary to the Office Action's assertion, non-limiting examples of a built-in

¹ Support for the changes to Claims 1, 15, and 19 is provided, in part, by page 17, lines 6-13, of Applicants' originally filed specification.

heater 81c are discussed throughout the specification, including from page 20, line 27 to page 21, line 3, of the originally filed specification.

For the above discussed reasons, it is requested that the objections to the drawings be withdrawn.

As stated above the abstract is objected to, apparently because the abstract is not directed to the elected species. In response, it is asserted that the abstract is consistent with the elected species. For these reasons, it is requested that the objection to the abstract be withdrawn.

As stated above Claims 1-7, 15, 16, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. In response, independent Claims 1, 15, and 19 are amended to recite further features of a light path part. Specifically, independent Claim 1 has been amended to recite “a light path part provided in the main electronic component holding unit, the light path part configured to guide light shined onto the positioning mark formed at a terminal part of the electronic component.” Independent Claims 15 and 19 have been amended in a similar manner. For these reasons, it is requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

As stated above Claims 1, 15, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by the Admitted Prior Art. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Admitted Prior Art in view of Bendat. It is requested that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn for the following reasons.

The present invention is directed to an electronic component holding head for holding an electronic component to be mounted to a substrate (e.g., as recited in independent Claim 1), an electronic component mounting apparatus for mounting an electronic component onto a substrate (e.g., as recited in independent Claim 15), and a method of mounting an electronic component to a substrate (e.g., as recited in independent Claim 19). As recited in each of the

independent claims, a vacuum chucking part holds an electronic component at a position which is on straight lines substantially parallel to an edge of the electronic component and substantially mutually orthogonal on or over the positioning mark of the electronic component, and which is in a vicinity of the positioning mark and avoids the positioning mark.

It is asserted that the Admitted Prior Art does not disclose or render obvious the claimed features of a vacuum chucking part holding an electronic component at a position which is on straight lines substantially parallel to an edge of the electronic component and substantially mutually orthogonal on or over a positioning mark of the electronic component, and which is in a vicinity of the positioning mark and avoids the positioning mark, as recited in independent Claims 1, 15, and 19. Rather, as shown in Figure 7, the Admitted Prior Art at most discloses a vacuum chucking part holding an electronic component at a position which is on straight lines substantially parallel to an edge of the electronic component (e.g., the vacuum chucking holes 81a), but does not disclose the straight lines mutually orthogonal on or over a positioning mark (e.g., the two rightmost vacuum chucking holes 811a, as shown in Figure 13).

It is asserted that the claimed features can provide numerous advantages that cannot be provided by the Admitted Prior Art. By way of specific non-limiting examples, it is asserted that the claimed invention can provide a vacuum chucking hole between the positioning marks, such that deformation of the portions of the electronic component including the positioning marks is suppressed (e.g., see Figure 10). In contrast, as shown in Figure 8, the Admitted Prior Art suffers from the disadvantage that the portions of the electronic component including the positioning marks are deformed. As a result, the claimed

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invention can be manufactured with a high degree of accuracy. For example, leads can be accurately connected and mounted to the electronic component.²

For the above discussed reasons, it is requested that the rejection of independent Claims 1, 15, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) be withdrawn, and the allowance of independent Claims 1, 15, and 19 is requested.

Claims 3-7 and 16 are allowable for the same reasons as the independent claims from which they depend, as well as for their own features. For these reasons, the allowance of dependent Claims 3-7 and 16 is requested.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-7, 15, 16, and 19 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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² From page 17, line 21 to page 18, line 17, of the originally filed specification.

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IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Fig. 1-3, 5, and 7, labeling them as "Prior Art."

Attachments: Replacement Sheets (4)